



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held August 21, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation to authorize settlement of case entitled, William Earley v. County of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. GC 037373, in the amount of \$425,000; and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures.

Kurt Floren, Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures, Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel, and William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, responded to questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"Almost every week this Board considers litigation settlements for approval. Some of these settlements are presented to the Claims Board with an accompanying County Counsel memo that provides important information to the public about background and amount of settlement. Other settlements, because of the nature of the case, are presented directly to the Board for approval. Regardless of the manner of presentation, the public has a right to know key information about each claim to be settled and the settlement amount. It is, after all, the public's money."

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a motion that County Counsel be instructed to immediately prepare case summaries for release to the public of all proposed settlements over \$20,000 presented to the Claims Board or the Board for approval from May 2007 to the present, and the future.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Molina's motion be amended to instruct County Counsel to go back to the previous policy of releasing information to the public of settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board, and to report back in three weeks on how they would implement the release of case summaries to the public in the future, including the development of a format for inclusion in, or attachment to, all settlement memos that summarize, and make more consistent, the corrective actions taken in response to each case.

Supervisor Molina accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Los Angeles County Claims Board's attached recommendation;
2. Instructed County Counsel to go back to the previous policy of releasing information to the public of settlements proposed by the Los Angeles County Claims Board since May 2007; and
3. Requested County Counsel to report back on Supervisor Molina's motion at the September 11, 2007 Board meeting on how they would implement the release of all case summaries over \$20,000 presented to the Claims Board or this Board, to the public from May 2007 to the present and in the future. County Counsel in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer's Risk Management should also include the development of a format for inclusion in, or attachment to, all settlement memos that summarize, and make more consistent, the corrective actions taken in response to each case.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Chairperson, Los Angeles County
Claims Board